

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended) A method for distributing information concerning recommended steps for repairing a part, comprising:

using a computer network to receive at a first location a request for a recommended repair sequence of steps for repairing the part, the request originating at a second location that is remote from the first location;

causing an input screen to be displayed at the second location to collect information about the recommended repair sequence of steps for repairing the part;

processing, at the first location, the request to produce the recommended repair sequence of steps for repairing the part; and

determining the recommended repair sequence of steps and providing error proofing directions; and

using the computer network to convey from the first location to the second location a response that includes the recommended repair sequence of steps for repairing the part and error proofing directions based on the recommended repair sequence of steps included in the response.

Claim 2 (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:

said processing includes using a decision tree for use in determining the recommended repair sequence of steps.

Claim 3 (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 2, wherein:

the decision tree includes a decision node, said method further comprises determining if a first sequence of steps or a second sequence of steps is part of the recommended repair sequence of steps based on the decision node.

Claim 4 (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:
said processing includes using a notes tree for providing error proofing directions for
the recommended repair sequence of steps in the response.

Claim 5 (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:
said processing includes using a notes tree for providing best practices directions for
the recommended repair sequence of steps in the response.

Claim 6 (original) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:
said processing includes using a tree structure that is in the form a spreadsheet.

Claim 7 (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 1, wherein:
said processing includes calculating a value associated with a step of the
recommended repair sequence of steps.

Claim 8 (original) The method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein:
said calculating includes using a data file.

Claim 9 (original) The method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein:
said calculating includes using a data file that is in the form of a spreadsheet.

Claim 10 (currently amended) A method for distributing information concerning
recommended steps for repairing a part, comprising:

providing a computer network for communicating digital data between at least two
locations;

first conveying, using the computer network, a request for a recommended repair
sequence of steps for repairing the part, the request having originated at a first location and
being directed to a second location; and

second conveying, in response to the request and using the computer network, a response that includes the recommended repair sequence of steps for repairing the part and error proofing directions based on the recommended repair sequence of steps included in the response, the response having originated at the second location and being directed to the first location.

Claim 11 (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 10, wherein:
providing a computer network further comprises providing a network that includes the World Wide Web.

Claim 12 (original) The method as claimed in Claim 10, wherein:
said providing includes providing one of the following: a local area network and a wide area network.

Claim 13 (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 10, wherein:
said first conveying includes conveying the request in the form of a spreadsheet.

Claim 14 (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 10, wherein:
said second conveying includes conveying the response in the form of a spreadsheet.

Claim 15 (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 10, wherein:
said second conveying includes conveying the recommended repair sequence of steps in the form of a spreadsheet.

Claim 16 (currently amended) A method for providing information concerning recommended steps for repairing a part, comprising the steps of:

providing, in a computer memory, a decision tree having at least two possible sequences of steps for repairing a part and error proofing directions best on the sequences of steps;

receiving a request, originating from a computer input device, for a recommended repair sequence of steps for repairing the part, the request including information for use in determining a recommended repair sequence of steps from the at least two possible sequences in the decision tree;

using, in a digital computer, the decision tree to determine a recommended repair sequence of steps for repairing the part for and error proofing directions based on the recommended repair sequence of steps; and

transmitting the recommended repair sequence of steps and the error proofing directions towards a computer output device.

Claim 17 (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 16, further comprising:

permitting an expert to modify the decision tree.

Claim 18 (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 16, further comprising:

receiving the decision tree from a remote location relative to the digital computer.

Claim 19 (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein:
said step of receiving includes conveying the request over a computer network.

Claim 20 (previously presented) The method as claimed in Claim 16, wherein:
said step of transmitting includes conveying the recommended repair sequence of steps over a computer network.